Convergence Bill, 2002

191. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to go slow with regard to the passage of the Convergence Bill, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the contents of the Bill were discussed with all affected interests adequately and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the Bill is likely to be placed before Parliament for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Communications Convergence Bill, 2001, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 31.08.2001, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Information Technology for consideration and report.

The Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology has been presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th November, 2002. The Committee has made various observations and recommendations which are being processed through inter-ministerial consultations.

The Standing Committee has indicated in its report that the Bill had been put on Parliament's Web site (www.parliamentofindia.nic.in), and it had invited comments on the Bill from the public in general and experts/ professionals, organisations/associations representing industry, commerce, telecommunications, electronic media, films etc. Copies of the Bill were also circulated by the Committee. The Committee has further indicated that numerous memoranda/representations were received by it and that it had invited several organisations/associations/institutes/ professionals/experts/individuals for oral evidence.